

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 THE HA 02182 260733Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----260735Z 120345 /17
R 260704Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 368

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2182

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP NL (BEATRIC, HRH PRINCESS; CLAUS, HRH PRINCE)
SUBJECT: BISIT OF CROWN PRINCESS BEATRIX AND PRINCE CLAUS
TO US

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT DURING THEIR OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES SEPT 26-OCT5, CROWN PRINCESS BEATRIX AND PRINCE CLAUS WOULD LIKE TO BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT. PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE CROWN PRINCESS TELLS US THAT AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR A COURTESY VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT WAS MADE BY THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR TO THE ACTING CHIEF OF PROTOCOL. ROYAL COUPLE PREFERS THAT CALL TAKE PLACE SEPT 27. IF THAT DATE IS NOT POSSIBLE, OCT 2, 3 OR 4 ARE ALTERNATIVES.

2. PRINCESS BEATRIX, ELDEST OF QUEEN JULIANA'S AND PRINCE BERNHARD'S FOUR DAUGHTERS, WILL SUCCEED HER MOTHER ON DUTCH THRONE. CURRENT INFORMED SPECULATION IS THAT QUEEN WILL ABDICATE IN FAVOR OF HER DAUGHTER IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE, POSSIBLY WITHIN A YEAR BUT ALMOST CERTAINLY DURING THE CARTER PRESIDENCY. THE QUEEN WILL BE 68 THIS WEEKS. RESTORATION WORK HAS ALREADY BEGUN ON A PALACE IN THE HAGUE WHICH WILL BE USED AS BEATRIX' RESIDENCE WHEN SHE SUCCEEDS HER MOTHER.

3. ALTHOUGH THE MONARCHY CAME OUT OF IT RELATIVELY WELL, ALL
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THINGS CONSIDERED, THE SCANDAL INVOLVING PRINCE BERNHARD AND LOCKHEED WAS A MAJOR SHOCK FOR DUTCHMEN. BECAUSE OF THE WAY IT WAS HANDLED BY THE GOVERNMENT, NO BLAME WAS ATTACHED TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE. THE DUTCH WERE HURT BY THE WHOLE AFFAIR, HOWEVER, AND WILL EXPECT THE CROWN PRINCESS TO BE GIVEN FULL HONORS. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT PRINCESS BEATRIX AND PRINCE CLAUSE BE RECEIVED BY

THE PRESIDENT.
MCCLOSKEY

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NNN

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